

Sermon Discussion Questions: A Boat in the Desert (Genesis 5–6)

Beginnings: A Study of Genesis 1–12 Series

- Where do you feel the pull to “go along” with the crowd the most — work, friends, family, online? What makes standing out for your faith so uncomfortable for us?
- You become who you walk with. Who or what is shaping your sense of “normal” right now — and how would you know if it was drifting?
- Read Genesis 5:21–24 and 5:27. The chapter keeps repeating “and he died” — but Enoch breaks the pattern. What do you think it means that Enoch “walked with God,” and why does the author highlight it in the middle of all that death?
- “Walking with God” is Eden language (Genesis 3:8). What was lost in the garden, and what does Enoch's life suggest is still possible — even in a dark generation?
- **Read Genesis 6:5–8.** How does this passage describe the world — and how does it describe God's response? What surprises you about God being “grieved to his heart” rather than simply angry?
- **Read Genesis 6:9 and 6:22.** Noah stands in stark contrast to his generation: righteous, blameless, walking with God — and he “did all that God commanded him.” What do you imagine his obedience cost him socially over those decades of building?
- When has obeying God made you look strange to the people around you — your own “boat in the desert” moment? What was the hardest part?
- **Read Hebrews 11:1 and 11:7.** Noah is praised for his faith — and he demonstrated it by building the ark. What's the difference between “talking a big game” about God and faith that actually steps out? Why does real trust eventually become visible?
- Hebrews says Noah became “an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith” — he didn't earn it; he inherited it by trusting. How does that reshape the way we think about our own obedience?
- What are some “boats in the desert” for you? — generosity with money, modesty, sexuality, and forgiveness. Which of these costs you the most right now, and what does the world's script sound like in that area?
- What does “going along to get along” cost us over time — in our convictions, our witness, our walk with God?
- Where is God calling you to build a boat in the desert this week — at home, at work, the ballfield, school? What is one concrete act of obedience you can take, even if it makes you the odd one out?
- **Read Matthew 16:24–25.** Jesus made the trade first — he lost his life for us and walked out of the grave to prove the finding is real. Knowing he is “the perfecter of our faith” (Hebrews 12:1–2), how can this group spur one another on to walk with God this week — so that none of us builds alone?